

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09048 311919Z

64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EA-11 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 NIC-01 RSR-01 /127 W

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R 311710Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE 552

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

US MISSION NATO 2280

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9048

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET COLLECTIVE SECURITY PLAN FOR ASIA

1. FONOFF ACTING DIRECTOR FOR FAR EAST (LENZI) HAS TOLD US OF RECENT APPROACH BY SOVIET DCM (OSTROVSKY) CONCERNING SOVIET ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY PLAN. ACCORDING LENZI, OSTROVSKY CALLED AT FONOFF FEW DAYS AFTER BREZHNEV AUGUST 15 SPEECH AT ALMA ALURJ

BHEMEOI VIEWS ON SOVIET ASIAN

INITIATIVE. LENZI REPLIED THAT OFFICIALLY GOI HAD TAKEN NO POSITION ON THIS INITIATIVE SINCE ITALY IS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND NO FORMAL PROPOSAL HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD.

2. HOWEVER, ON PERSONAL BASIS, LENZI TOLD OSTROVSKY THAT HE
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PAGE 02 ROME 09048 311919Z

HAD CONSIDERABLE RESERVATIONS ABOUT SOVIET INITIATIVE. IN FIRST

PLACE, HE HAD NO CLEAR IDEA WHAT SOVIETS HAD IN MIND OR WHETHER, FOR EXAMPLE, USSR ENVISIONED SERIES OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS TIED INTO MOSCOW OR SOME SORT OF MULTILATERAL UMBRELLA ALONG THE LINES OF THE CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINA. SECONDLY, LENZI NOTED THE GREAT DIFFERENCES SEPARATING VARIOUS ASIAN COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD MAKE ANY SORT OF AREA-WIDE SECURITY ARRANGEMENT HERCULEAN UNDERTAKING AT BEST.

3. IN REPLY, OSTROVSKY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE ALSO KNEW OF NO DETAILED BLUEPRINT AVAILABLE IN MOSCOW BUT HE BELIEVED WHAT SOVIET LEADERSHIP COULD HAVE IN MIND WAS AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES ANALAGOUS TO THOSE UNDER CONSIDERATION IN CSCE. RESPONDING TO A REMARK FROM LENZI, OSTROVSKY ADMITTED THAT THE USSR WAS GRAVELY CONCERNED ABOUT CHINA AND THAT, IN VIEW OF PEKING'S NEGATIVE STANCE TOWARD THE SOVIET SECURITY PLAN INITIATIVE, THE REVIVAL OF THE INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME COULD ACT TO EXACERBATE SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS. OSTROVSKY DENIED THAT THIS WAS MOSCOW'S PURPOSE AND SAID ONLY THAT EXIGENCIES OF CONTEMPORARY SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST DICTATED THAT AN EFFORT BE MADE TO DEVELOP SOME AREA-WIDE AGREEMENT ON BASIC SECURITY ISSUES.

4. LENZI TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD RAISED OSTROVSKY APPROACH AT AUGUST 27 MEETING OF EC FAR EAST EXPERTS IN COPENHAGEN TO SEE WHETHER THIS WAS MERELY ISOLATED INITIATIVE BY SOVIET EMBASSY ROME OR REPRESENTED BEGINNING OF WIDER DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN. ALL OTHER EC EXPERTS SAID THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF ANY SIMILAR APPROACHES IN THEIR CAPITALS BUT, GIVEN RECENTNESS OF APPROACH IN ROME, AGREED THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF OTHER DEMARCHES.

5. FONOFF WOULD BE INTERESTED TO LEARN IF SOVIETS MAKE SIMILAR APPROACHES IN OTHER CAPITALS. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME09048
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS VOLPE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973082/aaaaabig.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET COLLECTIVE SECURITY PLAN FOR ASIA
TAGS: PFOR, UR, XB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005